

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

In the Matter of a Complaint by Josh Collins, Vernon

File No. 2018-068B

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Complainant, Josh Collins, brought this Complaint pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 9-7b, alleging that Respondent, Daniel Champagne¹ failed to report an expenditure that was incurred but not yet paid for website services. The following are the Commission's findings of fact and conclusions of law:

1. On February 16, 2018, Respondent Champagne registered the Champagne for the 35th candidate committee (the "Committee") with the Commission.
2. At all times relevant hereto, the Committee was the sole funding source for Respondent Champagne's candidacy for state senate in Connecticut's 35th senatorial district.
3. At all times relevant hereto, Jordan Chamberlin was the treasurer of the Committee.
4. The Complainant alleges that the Jordan Chamberlin failed to report expenses related to the Committee's campaign website, www.champagne4senate.com (the "Website").
5. Imageworks, LLC is, and was at all times relevant hereto, a company that provides website design and related services.
6. Sometime in March of 2018, but prior to March 21, 2018, Jordan Chamberlin retained Imageworks, LLC to design a website for the Committee.
7. The initial website for the Committee was made public on March 21, 2018.
8. Between March 21, 2018 and at least September 3, 2018, Imageworks, LLC continued to develop and modify the Website.
9. All services provided by Imageworks, LLC were billed pursuant to a pricelist that was provided to Commission investigators.
10. On June 1, 2018, Imageworks, LLC invoiced the Committee for \$1,767.50.

¹ Allegations in the Complaint concerning Daniel Champagne shall be addressed in a separate document.

11. On July 19, 2018, the Committee issued payment, in the form of a Committee check, to Imageworks, LLC in the amount of \$1,767.50.
12. On April 10, 2018 Jordan Chamberlin filed a financial disclosure statement on behalf of the Committee. The April 10, 2018 financial disclosure statement for the Committee did not include a disclosure of an incurred but not yet paid expenditure for Imageworks, LLC.
13. On July 10, 2018 Jordan Chamberlin filed a financial disclosure statement on behalf of the Committee. The July 10, 2018 financial disclosure statement for the Committee did not include a disclosure of an incurred but not yet paid expenditure for Imageworks, LLC.
14. On August 22, 2018, Jordan Chamberlin and Daniel Champagne submitted an application for a grant from the Citizens' Election Program.
15. As part of the Citezen's Election Program grant application, Jordan Chamberlin filed a financial disclosure statement on behalf of the Committee covering the period July 1, 2018 through August 21, 2018.
16. The financial disclosure statement for the Committee filed with the Committee's Citizens' Election Program grant application did disclose the \$1,767.50 payment to Imageworks, LLC on July 19, 2018.
17. On August 28, 2018, Complainant filed the instant complaint.
18. General Statutes § 9-608 requires that treasurers of candidate committees for Connecticut state senate file financial disclosure statements with the Commission. That statute further requires that such statements include, "an itemized accounting of each expense incurred but not paid, provided if the expense is incurred by use of a credit card, the accounting shall include secondary payees, and the amount owed to each such payee[.]" General Statutes § 9-608 (c) (1) (C).
19. As the responsibility and liability for financial disclosure reporting of committees is the responsibility of a committee's treasurer the Commission concludes that the allegations, as they pertain to Respondent Champagne should dismissed.

ORDER

The following Order is recommended on the basis of the aforementioned findings:

That the allegations against Respondent Champagne be dismissed.

Adopted this 21 day of August, 2019 at Hartford, Connecticut.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony D. Katz", is written over a horizontal line.

By Order of the Commission